



LEGAL ASSISTANCE



Families may obtain legal assistance by calling the Ft. Hood Legal Assistance Office at:

COMMON LEGAL SERVICES

Power of Attorney

Service members should provide their spouses with a special power of attorney to obtain copies of Leave and Earnings Statements (LES) and enable them to deposit or cash U.S. Treasury checks. The special POA can be obtained at the military legal assistance office. Spouses should understand how to read an LES. Family members should be aware that under some circumstances BAS pay is terminated because soldiers receive their meals at no cost while deployed. Spouses are encouraged to utilize unit family support channels for financial inquiries, emergencies, or assistance.

A General Power of Attorney authorizes the individual designated to take almost any action the person giving the POA could take.

A Special Power of Attorney authorizes the individual designated to take specific actions that the person giving the POA could take, for instance, to move household goods or to sell a car.

There is no requirement for businesses or individuals to honor the POA.

Identification Cards

The military I.D. card (DO Form 1173, The Uniformed Services Identification and privilege Card) is the holder's passport to military services across any military installation. Therefore, this document is potentially the most important item a soldier or military family member possesses.

Replacement of a family member's lost, stolen, expired, or mutilated I.D. card requires verification of family member status with the spouse's personnel records.

Verification of family member status and the issue of an I.D. card are both accomplished at Bldg 700, I.D. card section, phone DSN 476-3044.

The spouse must bring a copy of the following:

- Marriage license.
- A picture I.D. (driver's license, passport, or someone with a military card who can identify the spouse.)
- Child's birth certificate if applying for an I.D. card for the child
- POA (Power of Attorney)

If required documentation is not available for verification, a temporary I.D. card may be issued. Temporary I.D. cards are valid for 30 days and are issued on a case-by-case basis.

Wills

Wills are highly recommended and are prepared free of charge in the Legal Assistance Office. Wills are a good idea for all family members.